

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. As stated in the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to for minor informalities. Regarding the merits, claims 1-12, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Morita patent (U.S. No. 6,266,986). In addition, the Applicant acknowledges that claims 13-17 have been allowed. The Applicant also acknowledges that claims 1-12, 18, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner for his assistance in this matter.

The Objections to the Drawings:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show the "rolling" step and the "joining" step recited in claim 13. Accordingly, the Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet of drawings, including revised Figure 1C, which now illustrates the "rolling" step and the joining step described in paragraphs 24, 26, 29, and 30 of the application.

The § 112 Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-12, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention.

Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 because the limitation "said shaping die subject to pressurize" is awkward and indefinite. In response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that the shaping die is utilized "for applying pressure to a blank and substantially forming the blank with the shape of the shaping die." Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 1 and 8 have been clarified and the rejection of those claims have been overcome.

Moreover, claims 6 and 11 are rejected because the limitation "adapted to bend through a bending process" is awkward and indefinite. Accordingly, the Applicant have amended claims 6 and 11 to recite that the dual conical tube is sufficiently deformable for

being bent during a bending process. In that regard, the rejections of claims 6 and 11 have been overcome. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 11 are now allowable.

Furthermore, claims 7 and 12 stand rejected for failing to positively recite structure so as to clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the claim. Additionally, claim 18 stands rejected because the limitation "forming said bow tie shaped blank to a die" is unclear in meaning. However, by this Amendment, claims 7, 12, and 18 have been cancelled and withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, the rejections of claims 7, 12, and 18 have now been rendered moot.

Also, claim 19 stands rejected because the limitation "metal forming" lacks clear antecedent basis. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 19 to clarify the subject matter recited therein and provide proper antecedent basis. Thus, it is submitted that claim 19 now is allowable.

The § 102 Claim Rejections:

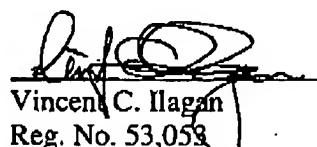
Claims 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Morita patent. However, by this Amendment, claim 20 includes the limitation of forming the first end, the second, and the central portion from a substantially bow tie shaped blank. It will be appreciated that the Morita patent does not teach or suggest this limitation. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is novel and allowable.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-17, 19 and 20, are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500, if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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